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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SHOWA CORPORATION

Serial Number: 10802219

Filed: 03/17/2004

For: AUTO TENSIONER

Attorney Docket Number: 13776

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD
Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 14, 2004

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith information of which he is aware, and which he believes may be material to the patentability of any claim and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to be construed as an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

The prior art references are set forth below and on the Form PTO-1449.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. HEI 1-106924

Japanese Patent No. 2537547

US Patent No. 4876660

US Patent No. 4876660 is the corresponding US Patent to Japanese Patent No. 2537547. It is being submitted as the statement of relevance.

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner give full consideration to the information disclosed herein, make it of record in this Application, and complete and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97, this information is submitted before the mailing of the first Official Action. No fee is due.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Authorization is hereby given to charge any necessary fees in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 04-2219, referencing our Docket Number 13776.

Respectfully submitted,

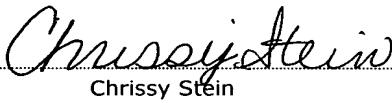


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1ST CLASS CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 14, 2004



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Chrissy Stein



**LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS
APPLICANT'S INFORMATION
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(Form PTO-1449 Modified)**

Attorney Docket: 13776 Serial Number: 10802219

Applicant: Showa Corporation

Filing Date: 03/17/2004

Group:

US PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial *		Document Number							Date day, month, yr.	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
		4	9	7	6	6	6	0	11/12/1990	Breindl			
	AA												
	AB												
	AC												
	AD												
	AE												
	AF												
	AG												
	AH												
	AI												
	AJ												
	AK												

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number							Date day, month, yr.	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes No
	AL	2	5	3	7	5	4	7	24/8/1996	Japan			
	AM												
	AN												
	AO												
	AP												

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. HEI 1-106924
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

* EXAMINER: Initial if Reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.